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ABSTRACT

This document consists of two brief articles on career education in elementary school. The first article, "Career Education--The Early Years" by S. Theodore Woal, suggests that elementary school is the time to begin to infuse career education concepts and to correlate and integrate career guidance in the school curriculum. Three activities are suggested for students at this level: (1) "My School Community," a board game that students create representing the school community and showing the industries, businesses, and services within the community; (2) "The General Store," a project that uses language arts, social studies, arts, and mathematics to expose students to the basic concepts of economics---working for pay, buying and selling, and careers in merchandising, marketing, retailing, and banking; and (3) "Shadowing for Career Awareness," a project to expose students to real-life work situations by observing persons on the job. The article also suggests other career awareness activities such as making posters, writing songs, and creating a job tree. The second article, "Let's Get Serious about Career Education for Elementary Students," by Patricia S. DuVall, posits that career education and awareness is not an additional subject in the elementary curriculum but a developmental process. The process includes four categories: self-awareness, family awareness, school awareness, and community awareness. Career Day is suggested as a good learning activity for elementary students. (KC)

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Career Education—The Early Years

S. Theodore Wool

Let's Get Serious about Career Education for Elementary Students

Patricia S. DuVall

American Association for Career Education

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American Association For Career Education

AAE Bonus Brief

Career Education--The Early Years

S. Theodore Woal

Career educators give too little attention to the self-awareness and career awareness phase of Career Education. They refer to the elementary school level where the student is initially introduced to the world of work. This is the time to begin to infuse Career Education concepts and to correlate and integrate career guidance in the grade curriculum.

In MY SCHOOL COMMUNITY each student creates a game board representing the school community and shows the industries, businesses, and services within the community. Board trips are taken to identifiable places, the postoffice, fire station, and others. Each trip involves the use of language arts, social studies, science, and mathematics, and the jobs and careers associated with the places visited. These vicarious trips can be supplemented with actual visits to each place. Here the students will be exposed to workers "on the job" and the educational background required to enter the job. The person on the job acts as a role model.

The GENERAL STORE exposes students to the basic concepts of our economic system, working for pay, buying, and selling, and introduces the students to careers in merchandising, marketing, retailing, and banking. This project utilizes the language arts, social studies, arts, and mathematics to impart career information.

SHADOWING FOR CAREER AWARENESS is an excellent project to expose students to real life work situations. By observing a person "on the job," the student relates education and performance. This can increase motivation to learn and develop communication and language skills. It also provides the student with an opportunity to be close to a person who could be an inspiration and a role model.

The relationship between a student and work can be expressed in many ways: Some students create words to songs, and others research for songs about work. Another exciting way of expressing feelings about education and work is with the creation of poems. Other activities to introduce Career Education in the early years are:

1. Integrate into art classes by making posters, for example, kinds of uniforms associated with jobs or work settings.
2. Write words to a song about a chosen career.
3. Create a job tree. Ask students to bring pictures about jobs, and hang them from the branches of the tree. Include students' names. Ask students to tell the class about the jobs.

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American Association For Career Education

AAEC Bonus Brief

Let's Get Serious about Career Education for Elementary Students

Patricia S. DuVall

Career Awareness/Career Education programs exist in many elementary school classrooms throughout the United States as infusion and enrichment to the daily curriculum. Often wrongly identified as a single subject or as an add-on in an already exhausting curriculum, Career Awareness/Education is a developmental process through which schools can have added positive meaning for the student as well as the teacher.

Career Education at the elementary level can be identified in four categories: Self-Awareness, Family Awareness, School Awareness, and Community Awareness. Students are able to understand the concept that adults were once children, just as the children of today will be the adults of the future. What children are taught at home and in school will have a definite effect on their lives as adults and citizens of their communities and the nation.

Career Day is a popular way to invite parents and grandparents into the classroom to share work as well as hobbies. This is a time for adults to share the past—our history. Children may interview adults with various questions:

1. Where did you go to school?
2. If you didn't have television, what did you do for fun?
3. What was school like?
4. What was your favorite subject?
5. Will I really need to be able to read?
6. Is math really important?
7. Do you really have to get along with others?
8. Did you have a pet?

Just as a child's day can go wrong, so can the days of adults. What positive coping skills do adults use to turn a negative situation into a positive situation? Career Day can lead to a bonding of ages, through which the youth of today can positively identify with the adults of today.

The elementary students of today are the secondary students of tomorrow and the adults of the future. No longer can the fact be ignored: Elementary and secondary must unite in the philosophy of Career Awareness/Education for all students—They are the hope for the future of this country!

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